



Volume 53, Number 04

# LARC



April 2013

## New AARA President's Message

This past November marked my fifth year as a licensed amateur radio operator (originally KE5RPM). My participation in AARA began soon after passing the Technician test with a class at the Children's Museum. Karen Marshall KE5RPI, JoAnn Pugh KE5RPL, and Joe Fain W5XJF (formerly KE5RPQ) were also in this class. I believe a photo of the class still hangs on a bulletin board in AMOS, the club van. Roland Guidry NA5Q loaned me a set of audio CDs, "*Your Introduction to Morse Code*", which is currently available from the ARRL store (Order No. 8314, \$12.95). The description of the CDs says "learn Morse Code at 5 words-per-minute." Although I tested for a Ham license during the first year after the FCC dropped the Morse Code requirement in 2007, there was still some incentive as a Technician to learn code in order to operate on the 40m and 15m HF bands in segments originally used for the Novice license. Otherwise, a modern no-code Tech is limited to a phone segment on the 10m band, which is subject to poor propagation during the down years of the 11-yr sunspot cycle. My first HF contact was a short Morse Code QSO with Roland on Xmas Eve 11/24/07. I had strung up a 66 foot sloper dipole made from aluminum clothesline wire over a tree in the back yard. Later I was pleased to learn that the same dipole works on the 15m band. My first HF rig was an ICOM IC-730 purchased on Ebay. I used a Japanese "bug" in straight key "side swiper" mode to generate the code.

By July 2008 I had upgraded to Extra, obtained the vanity call W5AG, qualified as a Volunteer Examiner, and installed my first back yard "beam". This beam, also constructed of aluminum wire, was supported by four 12 ft bamboo poles held on an 8 ft boom constructed from aluminum angle stock. This was raised about 22 feet with 6 sections of fiberglass antenna mast. Nylon guy wires held up the mast and 300 ohm television balanced line brought the signal to a tuner before attaching to the ICOM rig. My 2-element W8JK-type beam was used for the next year along with a second dipole added for 80m. In June 2009 I put up 48 ft of Rohn 25 tower and mounted a Mosley CL-33 tri-band. Partly for aesthetics, I replaced the 80m and 40m dipoles with a single trapped dipole. Station upgrades since then have included used rigs and amplifiers purchased mostly at hamfests.

During 2010, I served as AARA Vice President (under President Irma Bookter KE5UPK), Field Day Chairman, and in November began annual stints teaching the Radio Merit Badge Course at the Boy Scout Winter Camp near Lake Chicot State Park. Participation (free) with the Straight Key Century Club SKCC and the North American QRP CW Club NAQCC helped me to build CW skill. I also tried for a while some CW traffic nets such as the Texas Slow Net and the Louisiana Slow Net. I have mainly enjoyed participation in contests/sprints and pursuing DX contacts. After using paper logs through mid 2010, I switched to computer logging using MicroLog by WA0H (\$10) and N1MM (free) for some contests. Switching to electronic logs facilitated using Log Book of World LOTW to confirm QSL's.

(continued on page 5)

## Hamfest Banquet

The annual AARA Hamfest Banquet and March General Meeting was held on Saturday March 16, 2013 at 6:00 pm at the Red Cross Building. This was a "covered dish affair" and the food was excellent and plentiful.

A hamfest report was given by Rick Breaux N5RLM and Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP. See page 4 of this issue for more information.

New 2013-2014 club officers were installed, the only changes from last year to this year was the addition of a new President Archie Hill W5AG and Vice President Jess Gillion KF5LUL.



Herman KN5GRK (left) welcomes Archie Hill W5AG as the new AARA President.

Members that attend each monthly General Meeting over the last year were entered into a drawing for a handi-talkie to be given away at the March Banquet meeting. This year we had two to give away. The lucky winners of a BAOFENG UV-3R+ dual band VHF/UHF Transceivers were:

Karen Marshall KE5RPI  
Herman Campbell KN5GRK

**AARA April General Meeting** - April 4, 2013 at 7:00 PM @ Red Cross Building 101 N. Pat St., Scott, Louisiana  
VE Test Session at 6:00 PM.....Refreshments - Door Prizes.....Bring a friend!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM  
Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St.  
Scott, LA

### HAMFEST SCHEDULE

(see page 3 this issue)

### Local 2-Meter Nets

#### Sunday

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM  
147.150 PL 103.5 Carencro, LA

#### Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM  
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

#### Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM  
145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

#### Thursday

Kid's Net 7:00 PM  
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

#### Friday

HEAL Net 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays Only 1:00 PM  
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

### AARA OFFICERS 2013-2014

**President** - Archie Hill W5AG

archibal@bellsouth.net

**Vice Pres.** - Jess Gillian KF5LUL

**Secretary** - Sandy Leblanc KE5KJF

**Treasurer** - Joy Breau N5YCS

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD

Glen Thibodeaux - KF5FNP

Nick Romero - KE5MWX

Abigail Wilson - KF5BEW

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Herman Campbell KN5GRK

QSL MANAGER

Roland Guidry - NA5Q

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Herman Campbell KN5GRK

337-234-5364 kn5grk@lusfiber.net

The *LARC* is published monthly by the:

**Acadiana Amateur Radio Association**

P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

**General Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building, 101 North Pat Street, Scott, LA  
(Unless prior notice.)

## MARCH 2013 AARA MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2013

### CLUB MEETING

- The AARA President Herman KN5GRK opened the meeting with a prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 26 members in attendance and 7 visitors.
- Members introduced themselves and gave their comments on the 2013 Hamfest.

**Minutes:** The February minutes were not read as they were posted in the March LARC – accepted as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joy Breau gave the February Treasurer's Report. On motion by Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF, seconded by Nick Romero KE5MWX, the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. The Financial Report is not published in the LARC; any member wanting a copy can contact Joy N5YCS.

#### Old Business

**Dues:** It is time to pay dues of \$20.00 for 2013. If you are over 65 you pay only \$10.00. Herman KN5GRK will be updating the reflector and Rick N5RLM and Roland NA5Q will be updating the member roster on our webpage.

#### New Business

**Hamfest Report:** Rick Breau K5RLM, gave the financial report on the Hamfest. We had 501 people attend. The Club cleared more than last year. We had 21 camper nights, where people brought their RVs.

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, Chairman of the Hamfest, reported that there were 142 tables rented out this year. Most of the Vendors have indicated an interest in returning next year. We had great door prizes: Flex Radio 3000, Icom 718, Astron RS-35M, MFJ-269, Rig Blaster Plus, MFJ-4125A, Elecraft XG3, and a RigBlaster Nomic. There was some discussion on how to make the 2014 Hamfest better!

The addition of the "Sweet Shop" was a great success. Paula Romero KF5CNS, Jackie Wallace KF5PCH and Gena Faulk, deserve a great "Thank You". There were many positive comments from the Vendors and the people in "Bingo" when the women went around with a cart filled with drinks and snacks and desserts. Thanks to all who donated sweets for the Hamfest!

Nick Pugh K5QXJ reported on the Forums. The Forum titles were: AMSAT, Louisiana Council of Amateur Radio Clubs, Louisiana Contest Club, ARRL/ARES, and Advances in Software Defined Radio. We will have Forums again next year.

Nick also reported on the Fox Hunt. Nick asked Abbi KF5BEW, and Kendra Wilson KF5FYS, if they would like a handicap because of age. Their answer was, "We don't need it!" They won! The Fox was hidden in a flower pot under some gravel.

We would like to thank the "Texas Ham Playboys" who played French Cajun Music for the Fais-Do-Do. We all "Passed a Good Time".

A BIG Thank You was given to Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, for his great work in organizing the Hamfest. Also, for the many hours in communications, "flowers", going to other Ham Fests to advertise, and for whole heartedly working to make our Hamfest bigger and better. You did a terrific job and we all appreciate it. We would like to thank all who volunteered and worked to make the Hamfest a success. It is truly a "Team Effort".

**Installation of New Officers:** The following members will serve as the 2013 Officers for the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association: President – Archie Hill W5AG; Vice-President – Jess Gillian KF5LUL; Secretary – Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF; Treasurer – Joy Breau N5YCS. The following will serve on the Board of Directors – Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD, Nick Romero KE5MWX, Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, Herman Campbell KN5GRK, Newsletter, PIO and Club Reflector Mgr., and Abigail Wilson KF5BEW, Youth Member at Large.

The new refreshment list for 2013 was distributed.

Drawing for the HT's for members attending the AARA General Meetings over the last year was held, this year two BAOFENG UV-3R+ dual band VHF/UHF transceivers were awarded to Karen Marshall KE5RPI and to Herman Campbell KN5GRK.

Archie Hill W5AG, newly installed President, adjourned the meeting and we had the *Hamfest Banquet*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF  
AARA Secretary 2013



## 146.520 United States National 2 Meter Calling Frequency

I am sure if your reading this you likely have a fully functioning 2 meter handy talk (HT), mobile, or base rig? If you don't, then shame on you!

Many of use neglect to program or monitor 146.520. This is a vital and sometimes fun frequency. Some newer hams many not even know what it is for or how it is used. So let's cover some of that in this short article.

If your like me you likely live within a few miles of a heavily traveled road, highway or interstate. You probably even keep your rig on to monitor while you drive? So, you just as well dig out your owners manual and program 146.520 into your memory. From time to time travelers are on this frequency, monitoring or calling and are usually excited for a brief QSO while passing through. Also, it's a great frequency to have as a emergency meeting place in the event you are out of repeater range.

Keep in mind you don't need those pesky PL tones to make it work and you still have that outstanding FM sound quality.

I have traveled 1000's of miles monitoring this frequency and I have made several contacts by calling every few miles. It works best if your contact is a base or traveling in the same direction. I also recommend a sticker on the rear of your vehicle that indicates your a ham and monitoring 520. These can be found by Google'ing ham radio bumper stickers. I am soon to purchase one for my vehicle. If your one who already has the personalized amateur radio plate on your ride then your one step ahead! This in conjunction with the sticker, antenna and frequent calls should yield the best results. I say antenna because they can surely visually stimulate a traveling ham!

Some folks say it's only a "call frequency" and once you make your contact move off. But I tend to make the contact and stay there. Its hard enough to change frequencies while driving anyways. Let's be honest. It's not like it's a busy frequency. And your not likely to be disturbing other QSO's with your 5 watt HT. Also, if you stay there your more likely to have other hams find you because it gives their radios more time to lock in. Especially if your mobile. Trust me, if you disturbed someone on this frequency then you have to question why they are there in the first place! So throw caution to the wind and get yapping!

So before you hit the road next time, program your radio to 146.520, charge your HT, put your rig on scan and give it a shot. Also make sure to program your base rig. That way your always monitoring it. I have had a few base to mobile QSO's. Try giving a call from the base sometimes.

### Ham it up!

Jess Gillion

Vice President AARA Lafayette, La

KF5LUL@aol.com



## Children's Museum of Acadiana Technician Ham Class Report

On March 21, 2013 a VE Test Session was held at the Children's Museum of Acadiana (K5CMA) as a result of Amateur Radio Technician Classes carried on for the last several months with 26 enrolled.

### Those passing Technician Class and receiving their Technician calls were:

Mitch Barry KF5UQZ of Lafayette, LA - Manjitha Lakhota KF5UQY of Lafayette, LA - Jackson Schniaer KF5UQX of Lafayette, LA - Alexandra Malcombe KF5UQW of Youngsville, LA - Peyton Malencon KF5UQV of Duson, LA - Katser Isaac Lamson KF5UQU of Lafayette, LA - Gannon Lamson KF5UQT of Lafayette, LA & Gabriel Robin KF5UQS of Lafayette, LA.

### Instructors were:

Terry Turner - KF5FYW, Larry LeBlanc - KE5KJD, Nick Pugh - K5QXJ, & Sandy Smith.

### VE's present were:

Greg Dolan II-K5LFT, Wayne Thibodeaux-AF5EJ, Ric Wallace-KF5KEL, Archie Hill-W5AG, Galen Wilson-KF5BET, Mark Saltzman-W5GTI, and Nick Pugh-K5QXJ.

## NORTHEAST LOUISIANA REGIONAL HAM RADIOFEST ARRL LOUISIANA STATE CONVENTION

**Date:** Saturday April 20, 2013

**Place:** Monroe, Louisiana  
Barak Shrine Temple

**Time:** 8:00 AM - til

**Admission:** \$5.00 per person

**Talk-in:** 146.850

### Dealers & Vendors:

Hub City Amateur Radio Sales  
Palmetto Antennas  
Regal-Brown

### Forums:

10:00 ARRL/ARES Forum  
12:00 Louisiana Contest Club Meeting

### Main Prizes:

1<sup>st</sup> Yaesu FT 897D Multimode HF, VHF, UHF Xceiver  
2<sup>nd</sup> MFJ 259B Antenna Analyzer  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wouxun KG-UVD1-P Dual Band HT

Tickets: \$1.00 ea, 6-\$5.00, 25-\$10.00

### VE Testing:

9:00 AM Saturday

### Refreshments:

**Breakfast @ 8:00 AM Saturday**  
Hot Biscuits and Sausage with Cheese, Orange Juice, Coffee

### Lunch

Gumbo, Hamburgers, Cheese-Burgers, Hot Dogs, with all the fixings and chips.

### Website:

[www.w5ea.org](http://www.w5ea.org)

## NEW ORLEANS HAMFEST HAMFEST / CONVENTION Sponsored by Jefferson ARC

**Date:** Saturday April 6, 2013

**Time:** 8:00 AM - Til

**Location:** Woodlake Gymnasium  
131 West Esplanade Avenue  
Kenner, LA 70062

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 146.86 (PL 114.8)

**Ad mission:** \$5.00

**Tables:** \$15.00

**VE Testing:** 8:30 AM

**Grand Prize:** Icom 7200 HF Transceiver

**Contact:** Keith Barnes W5KB

**Phone:** 504-289-1504

**Email:** [w5kb@arrl.net](mailto:w5kb@arrl.net)

**Website:**

<http://w5gad.org/home/hamfest>



## AARA 53<sup>rd</sup> Hamfest Report

Just a little information on the AARA 53<sup>rd</sup> AARA Hamfest held in Rayne, Louisiana on Friday March 8 and Saturday March 9, 2013.

According to our records, we show the attendance down from 506 last year to 501 this year, however we did make a greater profit from last year. We showed 21 RV nights and 43 paid Crawfish sales.

Weather was extremely nice for Friday and Saturday and we do not want to forget to thank all that came out and supported our hamfest either by attending or helping with all the work needed to make it possible.

### AARA 53<sup>rd</sup> Hamfest 2013 Main Raffle Prize Winners

PRIZE #:	DESCRIPTION:	TICKET #:	NAME:	CALL:
1	FlexRadio 3000	78452	Jess Gillion	KF5LUL
2	Icom 718	80624	Kirby Comeaux	KI5EE
3	Astron RS-35M	84542	Robert Partigianoni	WB5JZP
4	MFJ-269	83526	Mike Ancona	KE5COV
5	RigBlaster Plus	78735	Bruce Deville	KE5CPL
6	MFJ-4125A	82369	Tom Thayer	KC5TCQ
7	Elecraft XG3	82167	Irving Johnson	KD5REQ
8	RigBlaster Nomic	86797	Buddy Brown	N5BUD



### AARA 53<sup>rd</sup> Hamfest Fox Hunt Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Abigail Wilson - KF5BEW & Kendra Wilson - KF5FYS  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kirby Comeaux - KI5EE

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP (1.)  
presenting the Grand Prize FlexRadio 3000 to Jess Gillion KF5LUL.

### AARA 53<sup>rd</sup> Hamfest VE Testing Session Results

Those persons testing at the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Hamfest VE Test Session were:

John P. North of Abbeville, LA passed his Tech KF5UMC  
Zachary J. Bond of Lake Charles, LA passed his Tech KF5UMD  
James Smith of Morgan City, LA passed his Tech KF5UMY  
Gary Coriell - KE5ACR of Lake Charles, LA upgraded to General  
Leslie Hatton - KF5SVY of Beaumont, TX upgraded to General  
Bryan Haviland - KE5NTY of Pineville, LA upgraded to Extra  
Tom Dischler - KF5OHJ of Eunice, LA upgraded to Extra  
VE's Present were:

Greg Dolan II - K5LFT, John Mussey - N5FJ, Ray Arceneaux - N5LRZ,  
Wayne Thibodeaux - AF5EJ, Mark Saltzman - W5GTI, Mark Holcomb -  
KE5HSW, Ward Tilly - NG5T, Terry Partigianoni - W5TMP, Ric Wallace -  
KF5KEL, and Kirby Comeaux - KI5EE.



### Texas Ham Playboys - Cajun Band - Thanks Guys!

Guitar - Larry Hebert KE5RQ

Accordion - Norman Helms N5SAC

Fiddle & Vocals - Bubba Brown



### MARCH 2013 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	5	53	2	73	N5LRZ Ray
AARA Monday Night Net	4	62	Ø	167	W5GTI Mark
Acadiana ARES Net	4	31	Ø	51	N5LRZ Ray
Kid's Thursday Night Net	4	21	Ø	42	KF5BEW Abbi KF5FYS Kendra
HEAL Net      *(M=Medical G=Guest)	2	8 M /7 G	Ø	18	KE5KJD Larry

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.  
~ John Quincy Adams

(Presidents Message - continued from page 1)

The AARA's member list of March showed 84 members including 36 Extras, 26 Generals, and 22 Technicians. At our recent Hamfest I asked people if they had ever applied for the ARRL awards: DXCC (100 confirmed countries/entities) or VUCC (100 grids on VHF/UHF). By searching the ARRL DXCC and VUCC letters I have discovered that the follow-

Bud Azar N5AN (mix 356 HR)  
Roland Guidry NA5Q (mix 334 HR)  
Danny Griffith K5ARH (mix 213) SK  
Rick Breaux N5RLM (mix 128)

Louis Corne KR5R (mix 350 HR)  
Jim Barron WB5AAA (mix 289)  
Charles Morrison KI5XP (mix 169)

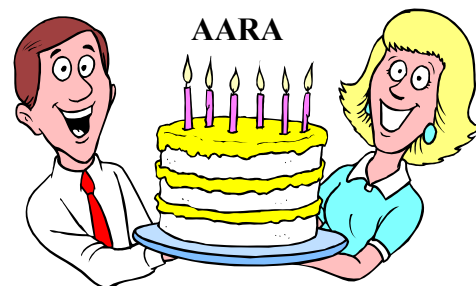
ing members earned DXCC:

Arnold Lemaire KE5JXC earned VUCC with 124 grids on 50 MHz. DXCC has been described as "the most prestigious award in amateur radio".

As President this year I plan to support AARA members in the many activities we currently pursue. As a personal goal I hope to encourage members to work for the DXCC and VUCC awards. Anticipating this goal, I began submitting electronic logs to LOTW during the week prior to the Hamfest. The last log was hand-picked from about 50 pages of paper logs selecting needed entities. By the end of the week my DXCC confirmed QSLs had risen from 50 to 107. On the Saturday of the Hamfest I applied for DXCC-CW. My DXCC Certificate #13,961, dated 3/9/2013, arrived one week later.

Unfortunately, I will be out of town for the April 4th General Meeting. Jess Gillian KF5LUL our Vice President will head up the Board Meeting at 6:00 pm on our budget for upcoming year and our General Meeting.

Archie Hill - W5AG  
AARA President



#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/6	ARNOLD	KE5JXC
4/7	MICHAEL	KB1NRO
4/8	GALEN	KF5BET
4/10	WILLIAM	N9QO
4/13	JAMES	KF5AHM
4/13	DAVE	N4ELM
4/16	RIC	KF5KEL
4/18	ALBERT	KF5WP
4/21	ABBIGAIL	KF5BEW
4/22	JARED	KF5SEQ

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.

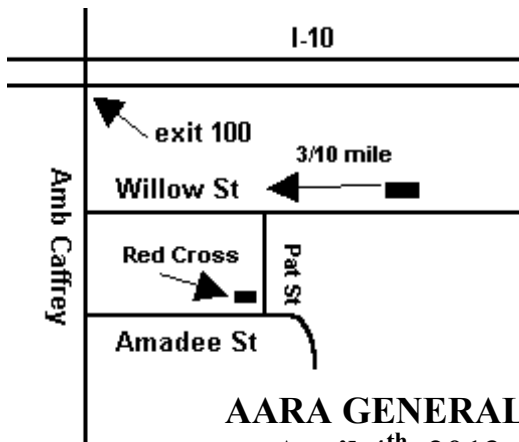
#### Lafayette Salvation Army Receives Donation

Each year the AARA makes a donation to the SA to help carry on their work for those in need.

Herman Campbell KN5GRK (SATERN Member) presents a check to Salvation Army Captain August Pillsbury to help carry on this work.

**Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 51174**  
**Lafayette, LA 70505-1174**

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



Share the Fun - Bring a  
Friend to be a HAM !

## **AARA GENERAL MEETING**

**April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - 7:00 PM**

**BOARD MEETING & VE TESTING TONIGHT - 6:00 PM**

**Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA**

**Lunch Bunch - Each Wednesday 10:45 AM - 2:00 PM**

Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA

Check 146.820 PL 103.5 - repeater for info.

COMPLIMENTARY  
ISSUE

## **Red Beans and Sausage (Just mix with Rice)**

From website: <http://www.realcajunrecipes.com>

- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 pound red kidney beans | 1 ham-bone with some meat on it. |
| 1 large onion chopped    | Optional but wonderful to use    |
| 1 pound smoked sausage   | - red pepper to taste            |
| cut in 1/2 inch pieces   | - salt and black pepper to taste |
| 1 bay leaf               | - water to cover beans           |

### **Directions:**

Wash beans. In a large Dutch oven or cast iron pot, cover in cold water and soak overnight. When ready to cook, add the onion, bell pepper, garlic, bay leaf and ham-bone. Add enough additional water to cover the beans at least 3 inches above their marker. Cook slowly stirring occasionally until beans are tender. Time will vary from 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

In the last 30 minutes of cooking mash some of the beans to thicken the gravy. Add the smoked sausage and season to taste with salt and pepper. The heat may be increased to evaporate excess water if the beans have a too

Makes: 10 servings  
Prep Time: 25 minutes  
Cook Time: 2 hours, 0 minutes  
Ready In: 2 hours, 25 minutes

Submitted by Chrissy LeMaire  
Kaplan, LA  
on Thursday, May 30, 2002

Traditionally Cajuns prepared the red beans and sausage then served the beans and sausage over rice which is the way this dish is prepared. This is a different from some fast food chicken places in which the rice is cooked with the bean and sausage mixture.

## **FCC Information Service**

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/vanity call signs: 888-225-5322. This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:

***ulscomm@fcc.gov***.

FCC Website:

***<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>***

New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

***<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>***

The mailing address to the FCC is:

Federal Communications Commission,  
1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245